## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06681 100826Z ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /132 W

-----065965 100831Z/10

P R 100747Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5633
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 6681

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLOS, KS

SUBJECT: ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS

REF: SEOUL 6586 (050827Z AUG 77)

SUMMARY: MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU CHIEF CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS ROK WILL ESTABLISH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS IN OCTOBER, PROMISED PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND JAPAN, AND EXPLAINED ROKG HOPE TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL SEA LANE IN KOREA STRAIT. END SUMMARY

1. SEOUL PRESS AUGUST 9 REPORTED ROK WILL ESTABLISH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA SOMETIME IN OCTOBER BY MEANS OF LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIS CONFIDENTIAL.

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SEPTEMBER. EARLIER PRESS HAD SPECULATED (AS INDICATED REFTEL) ROKG MIGHT ESTABLISH 12-MILE WATERS SOON BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE.

2. IN AUGUST 9 CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU CHIEF CHONG U-YONG CONFIRMED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATION, AND PROMISED PRIOR CONSULATION WITH USG AND GOJ. CHONG SAID THAT AMONG POINTS REQUIRING CONSULATION WITH JAPANESE BEFORE SUBMITTING LEGISLATION ARE QUESTIONS OF BOUNDARY LINES IN KOREA STRAIT AND SURROUNDING CHEJU ISLAND. CHONG STATED ROKG IS COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL SEA LANE BETWEEN KOREAN AND JAPANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS IN 23-MILE-WIDE KOREA STRAIT. IF JAPANESE DECIDE TO INCREASE THEIR TERRITORIAL SEA NORTH OF TSUSHIMA FROM PRESENT THREE MILES. THEN ROKG WOULD HOPE FOR AGREEMENT WITH GOJ THAT EACH NATION WILL CLAIM LESS THAN FULL 12 MILES IN STRAIT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIGH SEAS LANE BETWEEN TWO TERRITORIAL SEAS. ALTERNATIVELY, IF JAPANESE CONTINUE THREE-MILE CLAIM, KOREA COULD CLAIM FULL 12 MILES WITHOUT ABOLISHING SEA LANE. CHONG SAID FURTHER ROKG WILL ALSO CONSULT WITH JAPANESE ON LOCATIONS OF STRAIGHT LINE BOUNDARIES IT INTENDS TO DRAW SOUTH OF CHEJU ISLAND. HE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT GOJ HAD CONSULTED WITH ROK BEFORE GOING TO 12-MILES AND HAD NOT APPLIED 12-MILE ZONE TO SEA AREAS AROUND TSUSHIMA. **STERN** 

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## Message Attributes

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